Conversion of sea water into potable water

1186. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENTbe pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new technology has been developed to convert sea water into potable water with a lesser cost;

(b) if so, the details of the technology;

(c) whether any experiments have been carried out to demonstrate the new technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that with the new technology the cost of conversion of sea water into potable water comes to around 22 paise per litre; and

(f) if so, whether it is viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, an autonomous body of the Department, has developed a Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System (LTTD) technology for conversion of sea water into potable water. The LTTD is a process by which fresh water is produced by flashing warm surface sea water under low vacuum conditions and condensing the vapour using cold deep seawater.

(c) and (d) After successful experiments in the laboratory NIOT demonstrated the LTTD Technology on an experimental basis on a barge mounted plant off Tuticorin, which successfully produced 10 lakhs litres in a 10-day period and the water quality is found to be excellent. In the meantime NIOT has set up a LTTD plant with a capacity of 1-lakh liter per day, at Kavaratti in Lakshadweep. A 600m long pipe was successfuly deployed for drawing the cold water. The heavy plant components were fabricated and installed. The plant was successfully commissioned in May 2005. The water produced is of excellent quality. The plant is generating about one lakh litre per day.

(e) and (f) At present, the cost of conversion of sea water into potable water works out to around 25 paise per litre at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep, of

which the running cost for power is about 6 paise per litre and the balance is for repayment of capital. However, the cost is expected to come down further once higher capacity desalination plant is commissioned and run over a long period.

Human trafficking by recruiting agencies

1187. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to check the racket of human traffickers and fake recruiting agents who recruit young women to Gulf countries for sexual activities;

(b) the number of cases that have been detected and reported by the Indian Consulate in the Gulf countries and the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of cases in which erring recruiting agencies have been charged; and

(d) whether Government have introduced any effective measures in the immigrations laws to check the above said rackets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Taking into account the vulnerability of women and on the recommendations of National Commission for Women, instructions were issued on 20.11.2003 to all the Protectors of Emigrants for not granting emigration clearance to women below the age of thirty years intending to go to any foreign country for employment as housemaids/domestic workers. In such cases, the employment contract is required to be mandatorily attested by the concerned Indian Mission.

Miseries of Indians abroad

1188. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unscrupulous recruiting agencies were responsible for the miseries that Indians, especially the labour class had to face in many countries, including United Arab Emirates;